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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Loving Father, You are high above all nations, and Your glory is above the Heavens. The Earth belongs to You. You own the silver and gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills. We confess that we often forget that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. We thank You for Your mercies that come to us new each day. May we live lives of gratitude because of Your generous kindness.

Today, use our Senators as instruments of Your glory. Fill them with Your peace as they keep their minds fixed on You.

Lord, bless our Nation. Make it a beacon of freedom and righteousness in these challenging times.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when the new majority resolved to get the Senate back to work, we knew we would have to get committees func-

tioning first. We believed that would be critical to helping Members on both sides rediscover their voices and find common ground and then develop real stakes in the outcome. That certainly is what we have seen this appropriations season.

The Appropriations Committee has already held dozens of hearings. It has marked up funding bills at a steady clip. It is sending good legislation to the floor.

One of those bills is the energy security and water infrastructure appropriations measure which is before us now. This legislation is important for American energy, for American waterways and ports, and for American commerce and safety. It will also maintain our nuclear deterrence posture by ensuring nuclear stockpile readiness, which is important for national security.

I would like to recognize the bill managers for their diligent work to bring this legislation to the floor for consideration. I would also like to recognize the leadership of the Appropriations Committee for its work in getting this process moving. By returning to regular order, we have opened up the process and empowered Senators—both those who sit on the Appropriations Committee and those who do not—to have more of a say in the appropriations legislation. That is important because these funding bills can affect each of our States.

The progress we have seen already is encouraging. It shows what is possible when the Senate gets back to a productive legislative process.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the good work, the exemplary work done on the Energy and Water appropriations bill by Senators FEINSTEIN and ALEXANDER. I managed that legislation for many years. Most of the time, it was with Pete Domenici from New Mexico. I was the chair most of the time but not all of the time. But it didn't matter—our job was to move the bill forward.

What people don't realize about this most important bill is that most of the funding is not for energy and water as we look at it, it is defense related—making sure our nuclear weapons are safe and reliable and things of that nature, making sure our National Labs are funded. So I appreciate their good work. It has been very good. I appreciate it.

Last night the Republican leader filed cloture. Cloture was filed not because of any problems on our side. We should finish the work on the bill tomorrow or maybe Thursday. But I am glad we are going to get it done. It is an extremely important piece of legislation. I am glad we started here. I am glad to hear my friend the Republican leader talk about the appropriations process moving forward. But we have to understand that we have a lot more bills to go. This is only one—one out of many, one out of a dozen.

### ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to be clear about something else, something that is vitally important, something that is imperative. The Senate must do something now to address the outbreak of the Zika virus. We are not going to interfere with the Energy and Water appropriations bill, but we must do something to confront this scourge that is facing our country and the western part of the world.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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